



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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ICE ARRESTS MEXICAN NATIONAL WANTED FOR SLAYING IN JALISCO *Palmdale man is 13th Mexican murder suspect arrested by ICE locally in less than a year*

LOS ANGELES – A Mexican national wanted in his native country for killing a man in a dispute over a herd of goats is being held without bond by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) following his arrest at his Palmdale residence late yesterday by members of ICE’s fugitive operations team.

Miguel Garcia-Chavez, 49, is named in a first-degree murder warrant issued by the Mexican State of Jalisco. Mexican authorities say Garcia shot Israel Farias Suarez in the rural community of Tamazula de Gordiano in June 2003 following an argument about a herd of goats that were reportedly trespassing on his relative’s property. Following the shooting, authorities say Garcia fled the scene in the murdered man’s truck.

Garcia, who is a legal permanent resident, has a prior conviction for spousal battery, making him potentially subject to removal from the United States. He has been placed in immigration proceedings.

Garcia was located as a result of a lead provided by Border Patrol agents with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in Temecula, who also assisted with yesterday’s arrest. In addition, ICE received substantial support on the case from the Los Angeles Regional Fugitive Task Force, including the United States Marshals Service.

Garcia’s arrest comes less than three weeks after ICE fugitive operations officers in Los Angeles apprehended Alfredo Rios Galeana, a notorious Mexican bank robber known in his native country as “public enemy number one.”

“We will not allow our borders to be barriers to bringing international fugitives to justice,” said Gloria Kee, field office director for ICE detention and removal operations in Los Angeles. “ICE is working with its law enforcement partners here and around the globe to identify these individuals and take them off the streets.”

The identification and removal of fugitives and criminal aliens is one of ICE’s top enforcement priorities. In the last ten months, ICE’s fugitive operations teams in Los Angeles have arrested at least 18 violent Mexican fugitives, including 13 who are facing murder charges in Mexico.

ICE